

ANOTHER POPE TRAVELOGUE

Nairobi, April 10, 1925.

My dear Dr. Musgrave—Though we have not entered the game fields of Africa, I thought I should report progress.

Our transatlantic trip was surprisingly pleasant and smooth. Our five days in France entitle us to write a book on "What We Think of the French." Paris, naturally, interested us very little, and we passed through with nothing more than a deferential salute to her beauties.

Marseilles was a much more picturesque and villainous town. I never saw such a collection of strange and murderous-looking people as those on the waterfront—the dregs of the Mediterranean fit for deeds that are dark.

We liked the town and its surroundings the best of all France, and toured Provence with great pleasure.

Our voyage on the Mediterranean was the roughest we encountered, the sky being far from the sunny heavens one sees on the postcard. The paradox continued, fortunately, and the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden we found cool and delightful. This is usually the hottest sea journey that one can make. After seventeen days on the General Duchesne we appeared off the coast of Africa and experienced what had always seemed to me to be a figure of speech. We smelled the spice-laden winds of Africa. The low palm-rimmed beaches were actually fragrant at a distance of several miles. It was like unrolling a Chinese matting in which incense had been packed.

The town of Mourbasa, where we landed, is an old Portuguese settlement many hundreds of years old. Its name means: the Island of Wars, and the old fortifications of Vasco Da Gama still guard the port.

Here we got the true color of the Occident. Somali, Swahili, Arabs, and a few British inhabit this amazing town. The children of the jungle, with all their fine primitive qualities, meet modern material culture as represented in Henry Ford's marvelous Kinetic apparatus. Wild-eyed Shenzis, from the bush, gaze with awe at the magic of the white man, but lose none of their dignity and noble bearing.

From Mombasa we traveled by rail to Nairobi, a trip of three hundred miles. Now we are outfitted and ready to start in the morning for Tanganyika. In three days we shall be lulled to sleep by the coughing grunt of the night-roving lions and the tittering wail of hyenas.

Leslie Simson received us here, and we already have our tent boys, gun-bearers, and provisions ready to start. The gun-bearers were somewhat reluctant to join us, till they saw our archery tackle and saw us shoot. Now we have them squatting on the veranda before us, sharpening arrows, enthusiastic to go.

Simson states very emphatically that we shall have every opportunity to come in contact with a large variety of game, including the king of beasts, and he has no qualms as to the outcome.

You shall hear of this soon.

Yours as ever,

SAXTON POPE.

Our Obsessions—Dean Johnston of the University of Minnesota says: "The greatest American obsession is the habit of going to school. A second great American obsession is the belief in equality. . . . The dogma appeared in the first sentence of our Declaration of Independence, 'All men are created equal.' *No American patriot believed that for a moment.* The instinct for sameness has played a prominent part in the development of our educational institutions. . . . The Chinese bind their girl's feet; we bind the whole child, body and soul. A third great obsession of our nation is the belief that the good things of life can be given to people. Parents fondly hope that they can give their children an education. This is quite impossible; as it is almost equally impossible to keep worthwhile young people from getting an education for themselves. We advise children to prepare themselves for law, medicine, engineering, dentistry, business—with a capital B—and for everything except the work that needs to be done."—*Journal-Lancet*.

California Board of Medical Examiners

SOME PROBLEMS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

(Reported by C. B. Pinkham, M. D., Secretary)

Report from Los Angeles states that on April 8, 1925, Seth M. Wells and James M. Fer Don were convicted of fraud in an oil promotion scheme and sentenced by U. S. Judge Paul J. McCormick to pay a fine of \$1000 and serve one year in the Los Angeles county jail on each of two counts. Stay of execution was granted for thirty days to enable defendants' attorneys to prepare for filing an appeal.

The minutes of the Board of Medical Examiners disclose Seth M. Wells some years ago operated a traveling medicine show in California and elsewhere. His application for a license to practice in this state, based on reciprocity with Iowa, was denied at the February, 1924, meeting of the board after an extended hearing wherein his professional record was fully discussed.

It is reported that Francis D. Coltrin, M. D. of Fullerton, was arrested April 13, 1925, by U. S. Federal Narcotic Agent V. H. DeSpain for violation of the Harrison Narcotic Act, he having been alleged to have sold twenty to twenty-five grains of morphine to an addict operator, who paid him \$25 in marked money. At the hearing of Dr. Coltrin before U. S. Commissioner Turney on April 14, 1925, he was held to answer under \$5000 bond. At that time he testified he had given morphine to the addict, who stated he wanted it to enable him to make a trip to Texas; that he did not charge the addict, but the addict wanted to give him \$25, and when refused said addict left the money on the doctor's table.

Skigerosky Adachi, alleged to have been in business in Los Angeles for some time, ostensibly manufacturing handkerchiefs, was recently found to have displayed on the wall of his reception room an imposing diploma, conferring upon him the degree "Doctor of Bacteriology," said diploma being issued by the "International Physician and Surgeons' College of Micro-biology," dated Chicago, Illinois, February 2, 1925, and signed T. D. Hyland, M. D., president; P. Tempone, M. D., secretary.

"Dr." John F. Costa, Lemoore, California, was recently held to answer in the Superior Court on a charge of having practiced medicine without a license, it being alleged that John R. Mendez was prescribed for by defendant and, instead of recovering from his malady, became worse and eventually insane, so that he was committed to a state hospital. "Dr." Costa is reported to be at liberty on a bond of \$5000.

Reports relate the arrest of George A. Bruning and H. C. Coulson, naprapaths of Los Angeles, on a charge of violation of the Medical Practice Act. It is related that they belong to a national association which will pay their fines, attorney's fees, etc., and that an attempt will be made by some twelve or thirteen naprapaths, now located in California, to obtain a separate board of examiners.

The theory of the naprapath is that various ailments are due to pressure on nerves, caused by tight ligaments in the spinal column, said theory being originated by Oakley Smith, who operates the Chicago College of Naprapathy, Chicago, Illinois.

R. H. W. Albrectondare, who not long since was convicted of violation of the Medical Practice Act in Santa Ana, California, following the death of two women patients, lost his appeal to the District Court of Appeals for a new trial; however, he has petitioned the Supreme Court for a hearing, and we understand the matter must be disposed of before April 19, 1925.

Dr. Albrectondare, who so far as can be ascertained has never studied medicine or any other system of treating human ailments, was given considerable newspaper notoriety about a year ago in connection with his troubles in Pasadena and Orange.

The San Francisco Chronicle of April 18, 1925, relates

that Wilbert LeRoy Cosper, self-styled bishop of an Oakland religious cult, was found guilty on April 17 in the Superior Court at Martinez of violation of the Medical Practice Act, but did not seem to be annoyed by the verdict and is quoted as having stated, "What is a fine of a few hundred dollars when one has been given a million dollars worth of publicity?" Cosper was charged with having held a clinic in the home of a Mrs. Dietrich, Richmond, California, who was about to become a mother. It is reported that "Dr." Cosper, with a number of students, made such a commotion in the home of Mrs. Dietrich that the husband is charged to have shouted, "Get out, you dirty dogs."

Cosper formerly had an office in the Pacific Building, San Francisco, when complaints were filed that he was alleged to charge a fee for treatment, which was reported to consist in his sitting before his patient with his eyes closed for a few minutes, and then a request that the patient return again at a certain time for another treatment.

Some years ago Cosper was also in considerable financial difficulty over a moving picture which he filmed and had produced at the Savoy Theatre, entitled "The Kingdom of Human Hearts." Shortly after the film was completed, his producer, J. Patrick Kennedy, called at the office of the Board of Medical Examiners, leaving a "certificate of ordination," which he stated Cosper had given him, said certificate conferring upon Kennedy the degree D.D. and C.P., certifying that Kennedy had been ordained a priest of the Christian Philosophical Church, and thereby was entitled to treat by prayer the sick and afflicted. At another time he created considerable publicity by staging a boxing bout in the pulpit of his church in Oakland.

It was reported that last year he was involved in other financial difficulties arising from an attempt of "several feminine followers to get back certain funds which they had advanced on notes to Cosper for the advancement of his cult."

The Sacramento Bee of April 15, 1925, relates that Dr. Earl Harlan of Colusa, a physician and surgeon, had been indicted by the federal grand jury on a charge of possession and sale of narcotics.

On March 17, 1925, Allen Mills, Chirothesian, Richfield, Tehama County, California, was charged with violation of Section 17 of the Medical Practice Act. According to the report of our investigator, Mills stated that he made "a positive diagnosis by the examination of the pulse, by examination of other parts of the person of the patient, and by what the defendant termed iridiagnosis."

Mills claims to be an ordained minister of the "Chirothesian Church of Faith, incorporated under the laws of California, August 2, 1917." In "The Chirothesian," a pamphlet published by the organization, it is related: "It is intended by the board of trustees of the church that the word 'Chirothesian' shall have as much significance as that of minister of an orthodox church or *as even that of 'M.D.'** after any person's name." The pamphlet further relates that, although the original papers of incorporation were issued under the title "Church of Faith," later the word "Chirothesian" was adopted "by the board of trustees as the title under which the ordained ministers of the church should advertise and practice their healing work . . . and while working under this title, healers ordained to the work are *protected from annoyance by the State Medical Board.*"*

M. T. Larkin, a Chirothesian of Los Angeles, was charged with violation of the Medical Practice Act of January, 1925, and at the time of investigation his place of business is reported to have contained a large quantity of remedies, the bottles being labeled for various diseases, such as tumors, rheumatism, paralysis, cancer, etc. On his wall was a diploma from the Western College of Drugless Therapeutics and, according to information from the Department of Licenses, State of Washington, a letter from the Sanipractic Board of that state relates that the Western College of Drugless Therapeutics was a "fly-by-night" affair "apparently for the purpose of giving a few persons a sort of diploma."

Our investigator further reported that on the wall of

Chirothesian Larkin's office was a sign reading, "We diagnose your ailments if you wish us to do so." Larkin, in answer to the question of our special agent as to how much his certificate of membership in the Chirothesian Church had cost him, is reported to have replied: "It cost me about \$250 so far. I paid \$75 at first, and as I don't go to church very often, I sent them \$5 or \$10 occasionally."

Diploma Mill Indictments—Replying to a letter of inquiry from the Board of Medical Examiners with reference to this subject, Mr. I. M. Golden, assistant district attorney of San Francisco, writes:

"I beg to advise you that the cases have been dismissed upon the ground that the authorities of San Francisco have not given to the district attorney the needed funds with which to prosecute, to extradite witnesses, and to transport witnesses from other states to California. The record is clear that the district attorney and the Board of Medical Examiners did all that was humanly possible to bring the cases to trial."

Surely this is sufficiently illuminating without additional comment.

"Bishop" Cosper Given Ninety Days—"Bishop" Wilbert LeRoy Cosper, leader of the Christian Philosophical Institute of Oakland, and self-styled "apostle of the divine chemist," was sentenced recently by Superior Judge H. V. Alvarado in Martinez to ninety days in the county jail and a fine of \$500 for violating the Medical Practice Act.

CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE discussed the "Bishop" and his alleged Philosophical Institute when the propaganda was at its height last year.

According to press dispatches an attempt may now be made by the Contra Costa followers of the convicted "Bishop," who, he says, number 1100, to recall Superior Judge Alvarado.

When Cults Are Forgotten—An isolated community of one thousand people had one physician. The data are not now available as to the number of spinal manipulators, testimonial shooters, drugless healers, nature friends, and what not shared the care of the community during relatively healthy times. We do know that when an emergency arose, when the results of the knowledge of the regular school of medical practitioners and those in other allied fields who have been so bitterly assailed and maligned by the opponents of medicine was needed, the whole world sat at its doorstep to watch through the press, to listen by the air, to compute on its maps, the trip against death. A small package was visualized by millions. Worthless glass vials assumed unheard of value because of their life-giving contents. Forgotten the vaunted merits of subluxation of vertebrae for nerves which never reach the spinal column. Disregarded the tenets of absent treatment. Water cures, mud cures, ice cures, are not mentioned.—Herman Goodman, M. D.

"What are the attractions of a career in life?" asks Doctor William Henry Welch, who then proceeds to answer by saying: "They lie, do they not, in the opportunities the career offers for service to mankind, in the congeniality of the work and in its rewards. The profession of medicine surpasses all others in its opportunities for service to our fellow-men. Besides this there are manifold fields of activity, appealing to the most varied personal inclinations and aptitudes, be these practical or scientific. The rewards of success in medicine, even of the highest success, lie not in money; they lie in the intellectual pleasure which one gets from his work as a physician, in the consciousness of service, in the relief of suffering, and in the cure and prevention of disease." Doctor Welch has just celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday, and so far as we have seen he has not told the newspapers how he managed it. In fact, Doctor Welch is partial to scientific journals for such messages as he has to give.

*Italics ours.—Editor.